essential to the needs of large majority of the people of the country; at making the price control less cumbersome but more effective by reducing the span of control and at ensuring a reasonable return to the producers of essential drugs, while at the same time restricting undue increase in their price. With a view to encourage production of drugs which are more essential to the needs of the country, incentives, other than the MAPE would also be considered. It is also proposed to strictly monitor the prices of drugs of decontrolled category and to develop an effective monitoring mechanism for this purpose with a view to bringing any drug in decontrolled category within the ambit of control at any point of time, should it be considered necessary to do so.

Meeting of Expert Committee

969. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee has decided to meet the associations of the Drug Industry and Medical Profession before finalisation of their recommendations for inclusion of drugs under Category II;

(b) if so, how many meetings in this regard have been held till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee recently held a meeting at Bombay;

(d) if so, what are the names of the associations of Industry, Trade, Consumer and Medical Profession with whom the aforesaid meeting was held;

(e) whether it is also a fact the none of the three Medical experts were present in the meeting; and

(f) if so, what were the reasons therefor and what purpose would be served without the presence of Medical experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee met the following in this regard at Bombay on 31st March and 1st April, 1987:

(i) Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association

(ii) Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India

(iii) Indian Medical Association

(iv) Indian Pharmaceutical Association

(v) Association for Consumers Action on Safety and Health

(vi) Arogya Mitra Mandal

(vii) Foundation for Research in Community Health.

(e) and (f) Two nominees of the Ministry of Health on the Committee could not attend the meeting due to last minute administrative difficulties. Another Member, Prof. Ramalingaswamy could not attend the meeting since he was abroad on a foreign assignment.

Expert committee for identification of drugs

970. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has appointed an expert committee to identify drugs for price control under category II of the proposed Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, how many pharmacologists and medical experts have been taken in the committee alongwith their names and institutions to which each is attached;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain experts of other fields have been taken in the committee; if so, what are the names of those members;